

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 27, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claim 8 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 9-11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 17-23 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8, 12-14, and 17-23 are currently pending in the application. The Office Action indicated that claims 1-7 have been allowed. Therefore, claims 8, 12-14, and 17-23 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 8-10 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhalla (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,773) in view of Vaara (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,951). The Office Action takes the position that Bhalla discloses all of the elements of the claims, with the exception of the control information comprising a candidate list identifying possible alternative controllers and determining to which one of the target cells within the candidate list a handoff request should be forwarded. The Office Action then cites Vaara as allegedly disclosing this element of the claims. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 8, upon which claims 12-14 are dependent, recites a method which includes effecting handoff of a call in which at least one mobile station is engaged in a cellular

communications network comprising a plurality of cells, receiving from said mobile station a handoff required indication indicating that handover is needed from a source controller to a target controller, and formulating at the source controller a packet addressed to a source gatekeeper. The packet includes control information comprising a candidate list identifying possible alternative controllers. The method also includes, at the source gatekeeper, determining to which one of said target controllers within said candidate list a handoff request should be forwarded and formulating a packet for forwarding to the target controller. The handover is to be effected between two network zones, each having a respective gatekeeper and the packet generated by the source gatekeeper is addressed to a target gatekeeper identified from the candidate list.

As will be discussed below, the combination of Bhalla and Vaara fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

Bhalla discloses a method of transferring a CDMA data signal associated with a mobile station that operates between a source system and a target system. The method includes establishing a frame relay switched virtual circuit (FR SVC) transport function capability in the source system and, consequently generating a plurality of parameters. A determination is made that the mobile station requires a transfer of the CDMA data signal which results in forwarding a message from the source system to the target system to transfer the CDMA data signal, the message including the plurality of parameters. Based on the plurality of parameters, the CDMA data signal is converted into a FR SCV format

by the target system, forming a frame relay data signal, which is routed via the target system to an inter working function element (IWF) of the source system.

Vaara discloses a method for handover and call setup in a mobile communication system. A mobile services switching center (MSC) transmits a priority cell list of the mobile station (MS) to the base station controller (BSC). The BSC monitors the need for a handover, and, when the handover must be performed, the BSC selects the cells which meet the set handover criteria. The BSC compares the identifiers of the selected cells to the identifiers of the priority cells in the priority cell list. If one of the selected cells is a cell defined as a priority cell for the mobile station, then this priority cell is selected as the target cell for the handover. If, however, none of the possible target cells are defined as the priority cell for the mobile station, then the BSC selects one of the cells that meet the handover criteria as the target cell.

Applicants respectfully submit that Bhalla and Vaara, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 8. Specifically, Bhalla and Vaara do not disclose or suggest “wherein handover is to be effected between two network zones, each having a respective gatekeeper and wherein the packet generated by the source gatekeeper is addressed to a target gatekeeper identified from the candidate list,” as recited in claim 8. Applicants note that this limitation was previously recited in cancelled claim 11, which was indicated as being allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action acknowledged that the cited prior

art fails to disclose or suggest this element of the claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 8 be withdrawn.

Claims 12-14 are dependent upon claim 8. Therefore, claims 12-14 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claim 8, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhalla in view of Vaara and further in view of Sayers (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,237). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons which follow.

Bhalla and Vaara are discussed above. Sayers discloses a communication system formed by a private network that includes a private wireless network. The communication system includes a public wireless network using a public wireless protocol, such as GSM, and includes public networks, such as PSTN, ISDN and the Internet, using a wired protocol, such as IP. The private network also includes a local area network (LAN) and the private network connects to the public networks using a wired packet protocol, such as IP. The public and private wireless networks operate with the same public wireless protocol, such as GSM, and the private wireless network additionally operates with a wired packet protocol, such as IP. The communication system permits users to operate freely in both public and private wireless networks using standard mobile stations while achieving high private network data rates. The communication system uses normal wireless handsets or other mobile or fixed stations without need for any modifications.

Applicants note that claim 12 is dependent upon claim 8. As discussed above, the Bhalla and Vaara, as acknowledged in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 8. In addition, Sayers fails to cure the deficiencies in Bhalla and Vaara as Sayers also fails to disclose or suggest “wherein handover is to be effected between two network zones, each having a respective gatekeeper and wherein the packet generated by the source gatekeeper is addressed to a target gatekeeper identified from the candidate list.” Thus, the combination of Bhalla, Vaara and Sayers fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 12. In any case, claim 12 should also be allowed for at least its dependence upon claim 8, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-8, 12-14, and 17-23 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time